

# The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, MO 64015



**Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center** is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and NOON to 5 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours:** The area and trails are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for Daylight Savings Time. **Area Hours Change:** Beginning October 27, the area and trails are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No pets allowed. No Admission charged. Gift Shop closes at 4:30 p.m.

Night on the Prowl!  
Come join the fun on October 18<sup>th</sup>!



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October 2002 . Vol. 16 NO. 10

## Creepy Crawlies! Yikes!

Why are we afraid of creepy crawlies? What is it about snakes, spiders, and bats that make us go *CRAZY*? Is it because snakes never blink? (Unnatural!) Or is it because spiders kill their prey with venom? (Scary!) Or is it because bats only come out at night? (Mysterious!) Whatever our reason for fearing these creepy animals, it usually boils down to one thing... we just don't know enough about these animals to understand them!

Many people fear snakes because they are so different from us. They don't have skin, they have scales. They don't hear sounds, they feel vibrations. They don't have legs, they walk on their ribs! Yes, indeed, snakes are very different from us, but the reason they are so different is because they live in a totally different habitat than us. They have to eat by "mice stalking." It's hard to sneak up on a mouse, especially if you have to pick up your feet and take a step. Scales help protect them from scratches. They need to be different to survive.

Why are spiders so scary? Is it because they weave a sticky web to catch insects? It's better than chasing an insect (especially ones that can fly!). Or is it because they have clinging feet? They need to be able to climb well,

right? Or could it possibly be the way they eat their food that grosses us out? The venom that spiders inject, turns the insides of their prey to a gooey mess like a milkshake and then they just slurp it up! YUM! Now I can see how that would be a little creepy, but that's just the way spiders do things.

What about those bats? What's so creepy about them? Some people say it's because they carry rabies. All warm-blooded animals can carry rabies and only a small percentage of the population is infected. "But the way they fly," you say, "Using echolocation to 'see' in the dark, that's really strange." Dolphins use echolocation too, but we don't think they are creepy. Now you say, "Bats are scary because they only come out under the cover of darkness!" Well... what do they eat? Mosquitoes! When are mosquitoes out flying? At night! When else could a bat find all those yummy mosquitoes?

So now you know that these animals are not so scary, creepy, or gross. It's just the way they make their living! Come out to Burr Oak Woods on October 18 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. and you can learn a little more about these wonderful animals! We hope to see you there!

- Diane Neal

## Coming to Burr Oak Woods!

### Conservation Agents Exhibit

Come and check out this interesting exhibit at Burr Oak Woods. It consists of Conservation Agents history and uniforms dating from 1937 - present. Available October to mid-November.

## Gift Shop News!

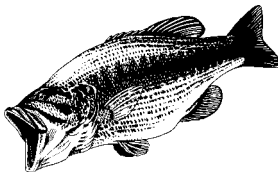
Think ahead for the holidays! Natural Events Calendars will arrive this month!

Let our helpful staff put together a gift pack for all the nature lovers on your list!

### Fish, Film, and Feedings

Join us for free nature films and wildlife feedings.

Films are shown Wednesday and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. The fish, turtles, and amphibians are fed Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at 3 p.m. The snakes are fed every Friday at 3:30 p.m.



## NEW!

Burr Oak Woods has a NEW audio walking tape for Habitat Trail. It is a great way to explore nature! Bring your walkman and check out this tape at the front desk! Five dollars refundable deposits required.



## Spotlight of the Month

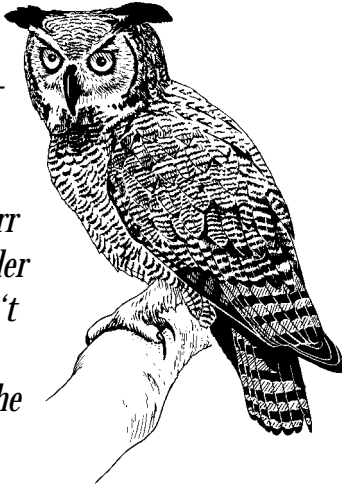
### Night on the Prowl Autumn Family Event

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Come out for a fantastic evening of prowling in the autumn woods.

Storytellers will join us around a campfire as they weave their magical web.

Take a night hike as we seek to unravel some of the mysteries that surround Burr Oak Woods at night. Owl Prowls, Spider Sniffs, and Campfires, Oh my. You won't want to miss it! Bring your family and friends. Registration for the Night on the Prowl is not required. (All Ages)



REMINDER!

### Photography Competition

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Remember, entries must be in the Nature Center no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 1st. Contest winners will be announced at the Night on the Prowl event.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT: [WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US](http://WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US)

# October Events

**How to register for a October program: Call Burr Oak Woods Nature Center on or after October 1 to register. (Phone 228-3766 V/TDD). The Programs are FREE of charge. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.**

## Grandma's Story Hour

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, & 26, AT 1:30 P.M. (ALL AGES)

Grandma has some new and exciting nature stories to share with the young and old alike. Join us as she spins a tale or two. No registration required.

## Adults Only: Trap Shooting on the Range 101 and 102

Trap Shooting 101

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, AT 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. (ADULTS 21 AND UP)

We will meet at the Lake City Firing Range. This class will focus on safety, how to properly handle a firearm, and learn about the sport of trap shooting. Registration required.

Trap Shooting 102

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, AT 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. (ADULTS 21 AND UP)

Now is your chance to get outside on the firing range and practice what you've learned in the classroom Thursday evening. You must have attended 101 to join us for 102. Be ready to have a lot of fun! Dress for the weather. Registration required.

## Adults Only: Owl Prowl

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, AT 7:00 P.M. (ADULTS 21 AND UP)

Come explore Burr Oak Woods at night as we walk the trails calling for owls. *Whooo* knows what we'll hear and see! Registration required.

## Little Acorns: Adventure Woods

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, AT 10:00 A.M. OR

TUESDAY OR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 & 17, AT 9:00 A.M. OR 3:00 P.M. (AGES 3 - 6)

Join us this month as Granny Woods takes you on a not so spooky adventure into the woods to learn more about those creepy animals like snakes, spiders, and bugs. Oh, my! Registration required.

## Homeschool: Adventure Woods

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, AT 9:00 A.M. OR 3:00 P.M. (AGES 3 - 6)

Join us this month as Granny Woods takes you on a not so spooky adventure into the woods to learn more about those creepy animals like spiders, snakes, and bugs. Oh, my! Registration required.

## Homeschool: State of Excitement

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, AT 9:00 A.M. OR 3:00 P.M. (AGES 7 & UP)

Today is Missouri Day! Help us celebrate by participating in a "Jeopardy" type game. You'll learn all about Missouri's State symbols, as well as the history of the fish, forests, and wildlife of this great State! Registration required.

## Conservation Kid's Club: Night on the Prowl

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. (AGES 7 - 10)

This month we would like to invite you to a Friday evening special event! Bring your family to Night on the Prowl and find out what the Kid's Club is all about! Do you love to learn about and explore the outdoors with other kids your age? Kid's Club is for you! All children ages 7-10 are invited to join. Registration for Night on the Prowl is not required.



## Night on the Prowl Autumn Family Event

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. (ALL AGES)

Come out for a fantastic evening of prowling in the autumn woods. Storytellers will join us around a campfire as they weave their magical web. Take a night hike as we seek to unravel some of the mysteries that surround Burr Oak Woods at night. Owl Prowls, Spider Sniffs, and Campfires, Oh my. You won't want to miss it! Bring your family and friends. Registration is not required.

## Adults Only: Forest Wild Edible Hike

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, AT 10:00 - 12:00 P.M. (ADULTS 21 AND UP)

This month we'll hike the trails of Burr Oak Woods in search for those elusive wild edibles. We'll teach you a few of the "must knows" in identification, and some uses of the more familiar trees, plants, and fruits that every beginner would feel comfortable digesting! This class will be geared for beginners. Make sure to wear sturdy shoes or boots. Registration required.

## Adults Only Hiking Club: Blue River Glades Trail

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, AT 1:00 P.M. (ADULTS 21 AND UP)

Just in time to enjoy the beautiful fall colors while stretching your legs. Close your eyes, you can almost smell the moist fall leaves carpeting this beautiful glade. Truly one of Kansas City's gems. Join us and we discover it together! Registration required.

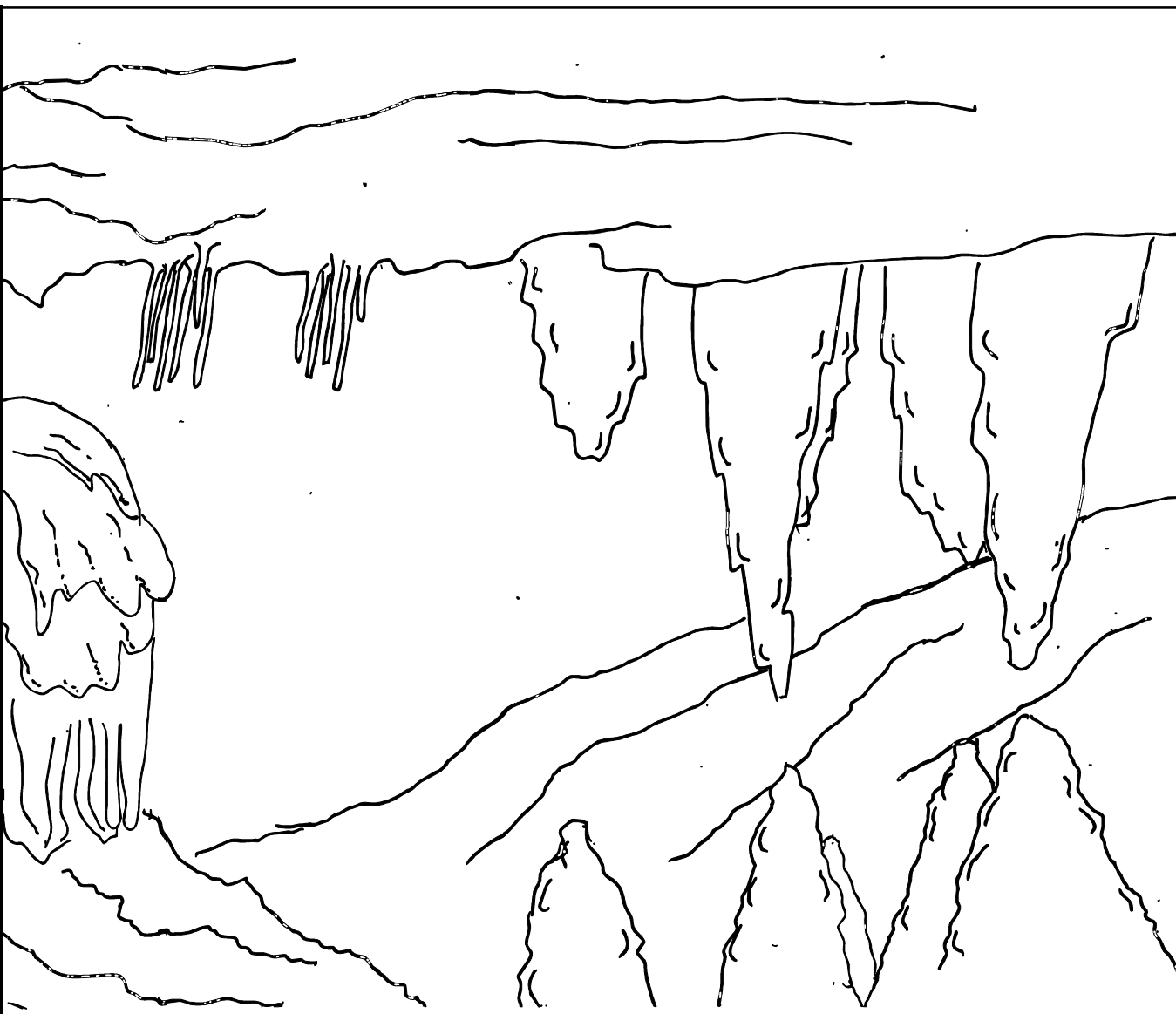
## Dr. Nutcase: Why so green?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, AT 2:00 P.M. (AGES 7 & UP)

As the days grow shorter and the temperature gets colder, Dr. Nutcase started wondering why the trees had green leaves most of the year, but now are all kinds of different colors. Come help the good doctor unravel *The Mystery of the Green Tree*. Registration Required.

**Area Hours Change: Beginning October 27, the area and trails are open from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.**

## Kid's Discovery Page



Draw these cave animals where they belong in the cave.



Black bear



Ozark cavefish



Grotto Salamander

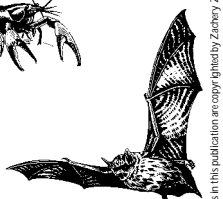
Pickerel frog



Cave cricket



Crayfish



Indiana bat

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Missouri has more than 7,000 caves! Many animals make their homes in caves. Some animals live here all year and other animals come and go to find food and shelter.